

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A headend of a cable network data communication system, comprising:

a first cable modem termination system (CMTS) circuitry component having a receiver or transmitter, the first component including a first system timer adapted to be incremented by clock pulses, a first comparator connected to said first timer for determining when the first timer has reached a designated count, and a first reset circuit connected to the first timer for resetting the first timer in response to a reset signal;

a second CMTS circuitry component having a receiver or transmitter, the second component being adapted to serve as a swap-out replacement for the first component, and the second component including a second system timer adapted to be incremented by clock pulses, a second comparator connected to the second timer for determining when the second timer has reached a designated count, and a second reset circuit connected to the second timer for resetting the second timer in response to a reset signal; and

circuitry connected to the first and second components for connecting the first comparator to provide the reset signal to the second reset circuit.

2. A headend of a cable network data communication system, comprising:

a first cable modem termination system (CMTS) circuitry component having a receiver or transmitter, the first component including a first system timer adapted to be incremented by clock pulses, a first comparator connected to said first timer for determining when the first timer has reached a designated count, and a first reset circuit connected to the first timer for resetting the first timer in response to a reset signal;

a second CMTS circuitry component having a receiver or transmitter, the second component including a second system timer adapted to be incremented by clock pulses, a second comparator connected to the second timer for determining when the second timer has reached a designated count, and a second reset circuit connected to the second timer for resetting the

second timer in response to a reset signal; the first and second components being adapted to serve as a swap-out replacements for each other; and

circuitry connected to the first and second components for selectively connecting either the first comparator to provide the reset signal to the second reset circuit, or the second comparator to provide the reset signal to the first reset circuit.

3. A method for establishing timer synchronization between redundant active and standby circuit components of a headend of a cable network data communication system, comprising:

providing a first cable modem termination system (CMTS) circuitry component including a system timer incremented by clock pulses;

providing a second CMTS circuitry component including a system timer incremented by clock pulses; the second component being adapted to serve as a swap-out replacement for the first component;

resetting the second component timer when the first timer has reached a designated count.

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